

1 **WE CLAIM:**

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3 1. An organic light emitting device comprising:

4 a first electrode;

5 a second electrode; and

6 a luminescent region including an organic electroluminescent material between
7 the first electrode and the second electrode, wherein one of the first electrode and the
8 second electrode includes both a substantially transparent charge injecting layer
9 adjacent to the luminescent region and an electrically conductive light absorbing layer.

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11 2. The device of claim 1, further comprising a substrate, wherein one of the
12 first electrode and the second electrode is between the substrate and the luminescent
13 region.

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15 3. The device of claim 1, wherein the charge injecting layer has a thickness
16 ranging from about 10 Angstroms to about 50,000 Angstroms.

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18 4. The device of claim 1, wherein the light absorbing layer is deposited by
19 thermal evaporation in vacuum.

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21 5. The device of claim 1, wherein the light absorbing layer exhibits at least
22 about 50% extinction of light entering the light absorbing layer.

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24 6. The device of claim 1, wherein the light absorbing layer exhibits at least
25 about 90% extinction of light entering the light absorbing layer.

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27 7. An organic light emitting device comprising in sequence:

28 (a) a cathode including:

29 (i) an electrically conductive light absorbing layer, and

30 (ii) a substantially transparent electron injecting layer;

31 (b) a luminescent region including an organic electroluminescent material; and

32 (c) an anode that is substantially transparent to light.

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34 8. The device of claim 7, further comprising a substantially transparent
35 substrate, wherein the anode is between the luminescent region and the substrate.

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2 9. The device of claim 7, further comprising a substrate, wherein the cathode is
3 between the luminescent region and the substrate.
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5 10. The device of claim 7, wherein the cathode further comprises a metallic
6 layer, wherein the light absorbing layer is between the metallic layer and the electron
7 injecting layer.
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9 11. The device of claim 7, wherein the cathode further comprises a buffer layer
10 between the light absorbing layer and the electron injecting layer.
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12 12. The device of claim 7, wherein the electron injecting layer has a thickness
13 ranging from about 10 Angstroms to about 50,000 Angstroms.
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15 13. The device of claim 7 wherein the light absorbing layer is deposited by
16 thermal evaporation in vacuum.
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18 14. The device of claim 7, wherein the light absorbing layer exhibits at least
19 about 50% extinction of light entering the light absorbing layer.
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21 15. The device of claim 7, wherein the light absorbing layer exhibits at least
22 about 90% extinction of light entering the light absorbing layer.
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24 16. An organic light emitting device comprising in sequence:

- 25 (a) a cathode that is substantially transparent to light;
26 (b) a luminescent region including an organic electroluminescent material; and
27 (c) an anode including:
28 (i) a substantially transparent hole injecting layer, and
29 (ii) an electrically conductive light absorbing layer.